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Lesson 2

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Sidebar

Best Wishes for the Japanese New Year

Learn how to say "Mr" and "Ms"

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Dialogue - Japanese

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(On the phone)

A: おとうさん？あけまして おめでとう。

B: おとうさん、あけまして おめでとう ございます。

ことし も よろしくおねがいします。

C: テイラーくん、ことし も よろしく。

D: (googoo gaagaa)

C: ああ！サラちゃん！

Vocabulary

Hide

English

Kana

Rōmaji

ことしも よろしく。 [ことしも よろしく。]

Be kind to me this year too. (informal)

まさとくん、ことしもよろしくね！

Masato, be kind to me this year too, OK?

よく おねがいします。 [よく おねがいします。]

Pleased to meet you.

ちえみです。よろしくおねがいします。

I'm Chiemi.It's a pleasure to meet you. (Literally, Please look favourably upon me.)

ことしも よろしくおねがいします。 [ことしも よろしく おねがいします。]

Please be kind to me this year, too. (formal)

明けましておめでとう ございます。 今年も よろしく 願います。

Happy new year! Look favorably on me this year too.

ことし [ことし]

this year

ことしはあついです。

It's hot this year.

くん [くん]

name suffix for males

まさとくん、おはよう。

Good morning, Masato.

も [も]

also, too; particle

これにもくです。

This is also meat.

おとうさん [おとうさん]

father, dad, papa

おとうさん、おはよう。

Morning, dad.

ちゃん [ちゃん]

affectionate name suffix often used for girls and children

バイバイ、まきちゃん。

Bye bye, Maki!

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Lesson Focus

The Focus of This Lesson Is Japanese Name Suffixes.
Teirā-kun, kotoshi mo yoroshiku.
テイラーくん、ことしも よろしく。
"Look favorably on me this year too, Taylor."

As you may already know from reading *manga* and/or watching *anime* and so on, one of the special features of the Japanese language is its name suffixes. We can call a Japanese person by many different name suffixes depending on whether he or she is with a friend, with parents, with older colleagues, with younger colleagues, at school, at work and so on. In this lesson, you'll learn the three most common- and useful!-Japanese name suffixes.

Name Suffixes

Let's take a look at three most name suffixes that we use most often in Japanese.

ROMAJI	EXPLANATION	EXAMPLES
-san	-San is the most common name suffix, which we can attach to either the first name or the surname. It is similar to "Mr.," "Mrs.," or "Ms." in English.	<i>Taylor-san</i> <i>Smith-san</i> <i>Chiaki-san</i> <i>Suzuki-san</i>
-kun	We attach -kun after the first name or surname of boys or young men whom the speaker is close to or socially superior to (e.g., at the office). Never use it toward your superiors!	<i>Taylor-kun</i> <i>Smith-kun</i> <i>Kenta-kun</i> <i>Suzuki-kun</i>
-chan	We attach -chan after the names of girls and young children. -Chan expresses affection and/or friendliness. We use it between female friends who are the same age and from young men to their female friends of the same age or younger.	<i>Sara-chan</i> <i>Tanaka-chan</i>

Please note that unlike the English titles "Mr.," "Mrs.," or "Ms.," we can attach -san, -kun, and -chan to first names, family names, and full names.

To be safe, with adults you don't know very well or with whom you are not very close, you should to stick to -san.

Sample Sentences

1. Ohayō gozaimasu, Sumisu (Smith)-san

おはようございます、スミスさん。

"Good morning, Mr./Ms. Smith."

2. Akemashite omedetō, Sara-chan.

あけましておめでとう、サラちゃん。

"Happy new Year, Sara."

Reference

Please also review the following Grammar Points.

• Particle mo→ Absolute Beginner Season 1, Lesson 15

• Words for family members→ Absolute Beginner, Season 1 Lesson 16

Key Vocabulary & Phrases

★ Kotoshi mo yoroshiku onegaishimasu. (ことしも よろしく おねがいします。)

Kotoshi, which means "this year," is followed by the particle mo ("too" or "also"), and the phrase yoroshiku onegaishimasu lit-erally means "please look favorably upon me." So the literal translation of kotoshi mo yoroshiku onegaishimasu would be "Please look favorably up on me this year too," and we often use it with akemashite omedetō gozaimasu, which means "happy new year." In an informal situation, you can leave out the onegaishimasu.

• Informal: Akemashite omedetō. Kotoshi mo yoroshiku.

• Formal: Akemashite omedetō gozaimasu. Kotoshi mo yoroshiku onegaishimasu.

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Grammar

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Below is a list of the grammar points introduced or used in this lesson. Click for a full explanation.

敬称 keishou

honorific pronouns & suffixes

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